

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. In the Office Action dated February 23, 2004, the Examiner took the following action: (1) rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,550,783 to Stephens, Jr. *et al.* or U.S. Patent No. 4,746,996 to Furuhata *et al.*

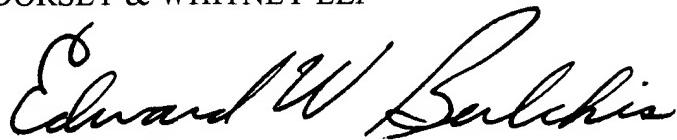
Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Peikari for his time and courtesy in conducting a telephone interview with applicant's attorney on May 26, 2004. During the interview, applicant's attorney explained the subject matter of the rejected claims and pointed out why the subject matter of these claims was patentable over the teachings of the Stephens, Jr. *et al.* and Furuhata *et al.* patents. In particular, applicant's attorney pointed out that the locked loops disclosed in the cited references were used to control the timing at which a signal was coupled from a memory or other device and that they did not disclose controlling the timing at which a signal transmitted from one device was received at a different device.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner stated that he would study the claims in greater detail and call applicant's attorney that day if there was any reason why all the claims could not be allowed. Insofar as the Examiner has not telephoned applicant's attorney, it is assumed that all of the claims are now allowable.

During the interview, applicant's attorney also mentioned that claim 1 could be placed in better form by stating that it was the "echo clock signal" rather than "data" that was transmitted from the memory device to the memory controller according to the revised output timing. Applicant is therefore revising claim 1 in this manner. This amendment does not alter the scope of the claim but simply places at it in better form.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

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